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system to be fair, it must be fair to the defendant. Someone who can be exonerated by newly discovered evidence must have an opportunity to bring that evidence forward. But, as this case so clearly illustrates, the system is being abused by needless, frivolous appeals that cost taxpayers thousands of dollars. And so, for a justice system to be fair, it must also be fair to the victims, to the friends and family of victims, and to the people who support the system by paying for it. That is the balance that must be struck and, ladies and gentlemen, I offer that today our system is out of balance and the Legislature has a responsibility to rebalance it. Besides criminal justice matters, the area of juvenile justice reform continues to be a priority. Let me just pause for a moment and again say thank you to Senator Nancy Thompson for putting this on everybody's radar screen. In each year of my administration, I have proposed improvements to the state's juvenile justice system, including significant initiatives in the last couple of years. A year ago, we worked together to increase the number of beds dedicated solely to substance abuse treatment at the Hastings Regional Center from thirty to forty. We also provided \$4 million in new annual funding directly to counties for the development of community-based programs for juveniles. A specific goal of the legislation was to develop new capacity for juvenile services at the local level, thereby providing alternatives to the courts in sentencing juveniles other than commitments to the state's Kearney and Geneva YRTCs. This year I am proposing four initiatives to alleviate a serious problem--overcrowding at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Kearney. They include the addition of a ten-bed secure facility contract to provide treatment to juveniles requiring a higher level of security than the staff secure environment at Kearney, a ten-bed program for juveniles who have been identified as having serious sexual perpetration issues, and a ten-bed step-down program that transitions youth back into community life. Finally, and most importantly, up to thirty additional youth security staff will be added to improve the existing youth to staff ratio and to eliminate the practice of peer takedowns. These actions will, in turn, allow for a more appropriate length of stay for those youth remaining on the main campus at Kearney. All of these initiatives will also dramatically expand the array of services that are available to